

# **Categorical Exclusion**

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# **Chapter 1. PLAN CONFORMANCE/NEPA COMPLIANCE RECORD**

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**BLM Office: Arctic Field Office, Bureau of Land Management**  
1150 University Avenue  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709-3844  
<http://www.blm.gov/ak>

**Lease/Serial/Case File No.:** FF096554, 3620.13 (AK012)

**Proposed Action Title/Type:** Geotechnical Survey (3601.30)

**Description of Proposed Action:**

The applicant, State of Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (AKDOT& PF) has requested authorization for access, sampling and testing mineral material on lands within the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska (NPR-A). The proposed project is to conduct a material source geotechnical survey for the proposed Barrow Airport Expansion project. The work would be performed to assist in the design of a second runway, taxiways and lease areas which will allow the airport to accommodate the additional air traffic associated with regional oil and gas development.

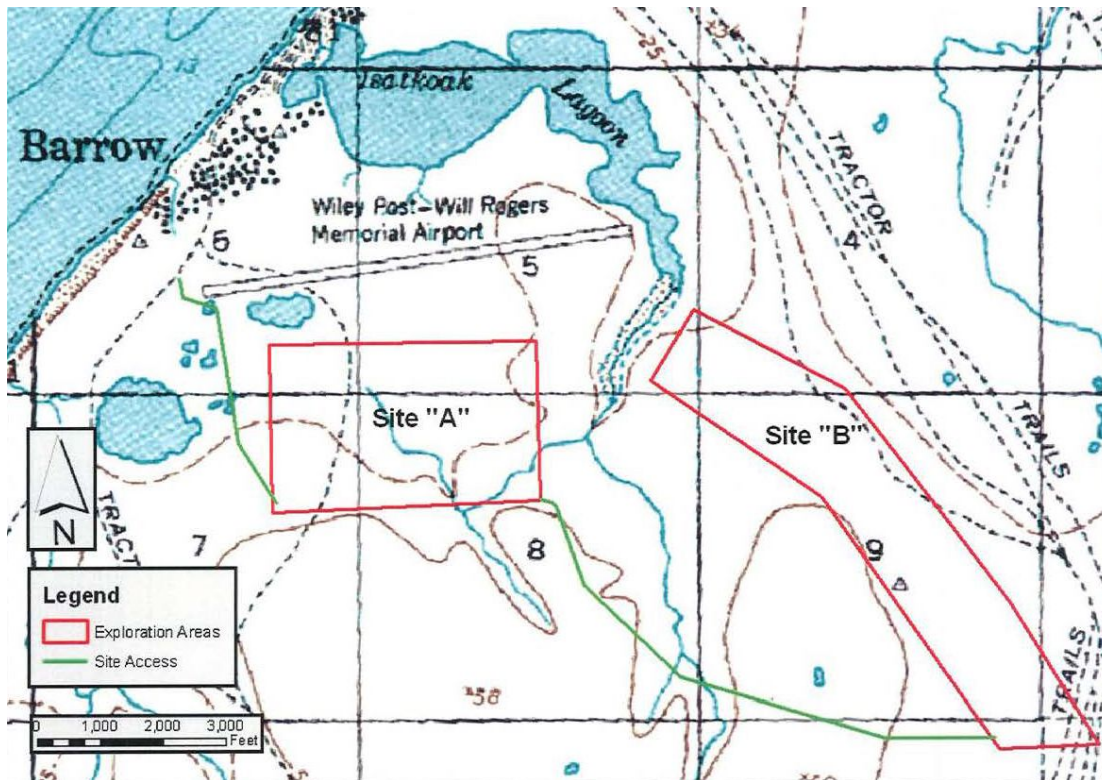
The estimated material quantity needed for the project is estimated to be from 2,000,000 to 3,000,000 cubic yards of borrow, Select Type A and crushed aggregate. Two sites (Figure 1) adjacent to the airport are of prime interest as potential sources of construction material due to the likely presence of beach sand and gravel.

All drilling would be conducted using a track-mounted CME-850X or CME-45C drill (figure 2), equipped with 6 in. diameter solid stem augers or a 4.5 in. air hammer. A crew of 3 would complete the test holes to depths of up to 50 ft. The crew would travel daily from town by snow machine or 4 wheeler.

The dates of proposed activity are April and May of 2013. The surface estate for Site A and Site B has been conveyed to either the State of Alaska or UIC, depending on the parcel (Table 1). However the federal government retained ownership of the sand and gravel for Site A and the majority of Site B as shown in Table 1.

No water is required for the proposed project. Diesel fuel will be used for to run the equipment on site. The equipment has two on-board tanks with capacities of 15 gallons each, one for the drill and the other for the drill carrier. Fuel will be transported from town to the work site every day by snow machine. The fuel will be transported in three or four, 5 gallon fuel cans and be transferred to the on-board tanks the same day. No fuel will be stored on site. A spill containment and cleanup kit will be kept on site.

**Location of Proposed Action:**



**Figure 1.1. Topo map showing Site A and Site B**



**Figure 1.2. : Drill**

Table 1: Legal Description: (All Umiat Meridian)

Site A						
Township	Range	Section	Surface Ownership	Subsurface Ownership	Surface Info	Subsurface Info
22N	18W	6	State Surface	BLM Reserved Minerals	50-68-0175	There are excepted from this patent (50-68-0175) and reserved to the US all minerals in the land.
22N	18W	5	State Surface	BLM Reserved Minerals	50-68-0175	There are excepted from this patent (50-68-0175) and reserved to the US all minerals in the land.
22N	18W	7	UIC Surface	BLM Subsurface	IC 45 Surface Estate	Excepting and reserving to the US #3 The subsurface estate therein, and all rights privileges..
22N	18W	8	UIC Surface	BLM Subsurface	IC 45 Surface Estate	Excepting and reserving to the US #3 The subsurface estate therein, and all rights privileges..
Site B						
Township	Range	Section	Surface Ownership	Subsurface Ownership	Surface Info	Subsurface Info
22N	18W	5	State Surface	BLM Reserved Minerals	50-68-0175	There are excepted from this patent (50-68-0175) and reserved to the US all minerals in the land.
22N	18W	4	State Surface	BLM Reserved Minerals	50-68-0175	There are excepted from this patent (50-68-0175) and reserved to the US all minerals in the land.
22N	18W	8	UIC Surface	BLM Subsurface	IC 45 Surface Estate	Excepting and reserving to the US #3 The subsurface estate therein, and all rights privileges..
22N	18W	9	UIC Surface	BLM Subsurface	IC 45 Surface Estate	Excepting and reserving to the US #3 The subsurface estate therein, and all rights privileges..
22N	18W	10	UIC Surface	UIC Sand & Gravel	IC 45 Surface Estate	50-90-0666
22N	18W	15	UIC Surface	UIC Sand & Gravel	IC 45 Surface Estate	50-90-0666
22N	18W	16	UIC Surface	BLM Subsurface	IC 45 Surface Estate	Excepting and reserving to the US #3 The subsurface estate therein, and all rights privileges..

## Part I: Plan Conformance Review

The proposed action is subject to the following planning documents:

*Chapter 1 PLAN CONFORMANCE/NEPA  
COMPLIANCE RECORD  
Part I: Plan Conformance Review*

National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska Integrated Activity Plan/  
Environmental Impact Statement (IAP/EIS) dated November 2012  
Northwest National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska IAP/EIS dated January 2004

The proposed action is not inconsistent with the purposes of the Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act of 1976. The applicant would be provided with stipulations entitled "FF096554 State of Alaska Mineral Material Survey 2013 Stipulations."

**Date** March 18, 2013

/s/Donna L. Wixon

Natural Resource Specialist, Arctic Field Office

## Part II: NEPA Review:

### Categorical Exclusion Review.

This proposed action meets the criteria for a categorical exclusion under 516 DM 11.9, BLM H-1790-1 National Environmental Policy Act Handbook Appendix 4 (F-10) BLM Categorical Exclusions.

"Disposal of mineral materials, such as sand, stone, gravel, pumice, pumicite, cinders, and clay, in amounts not exceeding 50,000 cubic yards or disturbing more than 5 acres, except in riparian areas."

The proposed action has been reviewed to determine if any extraordinary circumstances described in 43 CFR 46.210 and 46.215, apply.

<b>Extraordinary Circumstances</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
2.1 Have significant impacts on public health or safety.		X
2.2 Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.		X
2.3 Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2) (E)].		X
2.4 Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.		X
2.5 Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		X
2.6 Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.		X
2.7 Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office.		X
2.8 Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species.		X
2.9 Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.		X
2.10 Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).		X

2.11 Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007).		X
2.12 Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112).		X

**Date** March 18, 2013

/s/Donna L. Wixon

Natural Resource Specialist, Arctic Field Office